

REMARKS

Applicant has considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter as set forth below.

Applicant is submitting herewith corrected formal drawings as requested by the Examiner. Acceptance of the drawing replacement sheets is requested.

An abstract has been added as requested by the Examiner. The abstract is based on the abstract present in parent application PCT/IT03/00140 published as WO 03/079856 A1.

Applicant has addressed the informalities in the specification as noted by the Examiner.

Claims 3-5 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper dependent form. Further, claims 1-2 are objected to due to certain informalities therein and are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in view of certain matters set out by the Examiner at page 4 of the official action.

Claim 2 is stated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-5 and rewritten the claims as 6-10, respectively, to better conform the claims to U.S. claim practice. Claim 6 (prior claim 2) has been rewritten in independent form. The matters raised in relation to the objections to the claims and the §112 rejection have been addressed. Thus, applicant submits that the objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c), the objection of claims 1 and 2 based on certain informalities and the rejection under §112 have been overcome and requests withdrawal of the objections and rejection. Claim 2, now claim 7, is submitted to be in condition for formal allowance, as well as the claims dependent thereon, i.e., 8/7, 9/7 and 10/7.

The outstanding rejections based on art are as follows:

- (1) Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,228,094 (Stanback) or U.S. Patent No. 4,006,525 (Hennenfent); and
- (2) Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,685,285 (Fromme).

Applicant submits that none of Stanback, Hennenfent or Fromme teach a method as claimed providing slots which provide a clearance hole along an axis of a part for receiving a stay bolt or cable along the continuous passage of the hole. Stanback and Hennenfent describe

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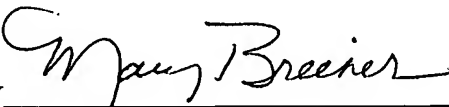
openings created along the directrics of a body and the intersection with orthogonal openings at regular intervals. Stanback in particular teaches an elongated bar containing a plurality of parallel non-aligned holes. Hennefent also teaches parallel slots 102 and 106 which are non-intersecting or non-aligned. Fromme discloses a locker with hinges 44 with a latch assembly 46 including a latch bar 48 which engages a frame 18 and door 20. Latch bar 48 includes one or more slots 54 for receiving projections 56.

Accordingly, none of Stanback, Hennenfent or Fromme teach each and every element of the method as claimed and, thus, does not anticipate the claims within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102. Withdrawal of the §102 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and formal allowance of all of the claims are respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment - Formal Drawings (4 Sheets/11 Figures)